Out of the funds released by the Government of India under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), 15% can be utilized for operation and maintenance work. Out of 15% about 5% will be available for repair, rejuvenation, replacement, renovation, improvement of existing water supply sources and systems including borewells and open wells in the rural areas.

Sinking of the new-bore-wells can be taken up under the normal ARWSP scheme as per the priorities prescribed in the Guidelines. Further, the ARWSP Guidelines permit the State Government to provide water supply connections from the bore-wells constructed by the Central Ground Water Board.

From the current year, ARWSP guidelines have been amended and 5% of the total funds have been earmarked for mitigating the contingency arising due to natural calamities and emergent situation. Fund of Rs. 111.75 crore is available for this purpose which can be released to the States for mitigating the drinking water crisis.The Department of Drinking Water Supply has released funds from 5% of the ARWSP funds set apart for natural calamities and emergent conditions to 4 States namely Karnataka (Rs. 157.68 lakhs), Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 590.00 lakhs), Orissa (Rs. 311.25 lakhs) and Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 367.08 lakhs).

NRI investments in rural development

201 SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cleared the proposal for direct investment by NRIs in rural development programmes without prior approval of the Finance Ministry;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the response and the details of offers received from the NRIs so far for investment in rural welfare programmes, sector-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir, The Ministry of Finance issued,instruction on 20th Sept., 2002 regarding the procedure for flow of funds from Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and

Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs) for rural development. The procedures for such inflow of funds specifies that:-

(i) it should be incurred on *bona-fide* development schemes within jurisdiction of Panchayats;

(ii) such funds should be deposited in a designated bank account;

(iii) it should be reflected in the Budget of that Panchayat; and

(iv) details of such funds should be reported to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs through the State Government annually to meet the requirements of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

(c) According to the instruction issued by the Ministry of Finance, the State Government shall report the volume of funds received by Panchayats annually to the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the instructions were issued only on 20th September, 2002 and no reports have been received so far.

Linking grants to States with performance in

Rural Development

202. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a list of the States/UTs showing good performance in respect of rural developments;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether this is linked with grants for rural development; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The Ministry of Rural Development has assessed the performance of the States/UTs in regard to utilisation of available funds and claiming the funds allocated to them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.